

From: Jeff Bell
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 1:28pm
Subject: Antitrust Settlement

Hello,

A news letter from Red Hat suggested I send my opinions to you concerning the antitrust settlement with Microsoft.

I approve with the settlement in it's current form, and I would be strongly against any further action against the Microsoft corporation.

In the news letter, Red Hat suggests it would be better to have MS donate only hardware to the underprivileged schools rather than the hardware, software, and services required by the settlement. I believe this would be a mistake. The software Red Hat is offering is already free, and it doesn't include accurate documentation or reliable support. I've been a computer professional for 18 years, and I use software from MS as well as from Red Hat on a daily basis. In my opinion, the software Red Hat would provide the schools is unsuitable for the majority of new computer users which includes teachers as well as students. Imposing this additional level of difficulty on already overworked teachers will very likely cause them to avoid using the systems as much as possible. Additionally, a number of would be teachers from the technical world might change their minds if they believed the software they would be required to use would be unsuitable for the task.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bell
Senior Software Engineer
Bihrl Applied Research, Inc.
18 Research Drive
Hampton, VA 23666
(757) 766-2416